

Sherlockian Theatrical Society



A non-Judgmental Play Appreciation Society

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"A Sherlock Carol"

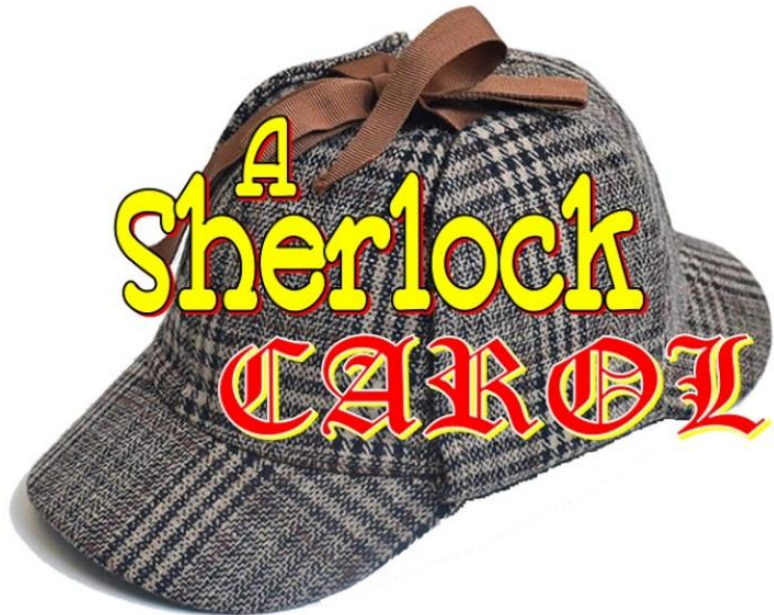
By Mark Shanahan

Kerrville, TX

In the beautiful Texas Hill Country there are plenty of places to visit. Just down the road from the town of Luckenbach, Texas is Kerrville. This is the home of the Kerrville Musical Festival. It is also the home of The Kathleen C. Cailloux City Center for the Performing Arts. This mouthful of words is also where yours truly, Uncritic #001, was treated to "A Sherlock Carol." The last time I saw this production was

in Oklahoma City and can be read about in Newsletter 25. This mash-up between Dickens and Doyle is a treat to behold. There are ghosts, murders/non-murders, theft, and intrigue.

Our hero, Sherlock Holmes, (Irec Hargrove) in the opening scene is lamenting the fact that Moriarty is dead (as do the six narrators throughout the play). With Moriarty's death, he has lost interest in everything and everyone, including turning his back on Dr. Watson (Sharlaina Lowery). Ms. Lowery plays a host of other characters including a fan of Sherlock Holmes, Abigail Fezziwig, and a narrator. There are 5 other actors who play more than a dozen different roles through the play, which each taking a turn as narrator. The exception being the actors playing Holmes, Scrooge, and Timothy Cratchit. Everyone



is trying to bring Holmes out of his funk. Emma Wiggins (Bella Richards) implores Holmes to save her father, Wiggins of the Baker Street Irregulars, who has been falsely accused of theft but to no avail. Mary Watson (MaKenzie Morton) begs her husband to forget about Holmes, who has refused their Christmas invitation repeatedly. An adult Tiny Tim, now Dr. Timothy Cratchit (Max Stecker), tries in vain to get Holmes to solve the murder of his mentor, Mr. Ebenezer Scrooge (Derek Meier) where everyone assumes he has died of old age. Mrs. Dilber (Jessica Strum) was Scrooge's housekeeper who has a questionable past. Her actions slightly pique Holmes's interest and a seed is planted.

Finally, Scrooge appears before Holmes and takes him to the past, present, and future and shows Holmes the error in his ways. Holmes is shown The Countess of Morcar (Terri Conatore), who is actually Irene Adler under an assumed name. He sees her fate or at least what her fate could possibly become. Inspector Lestrade (J. Clemmons) has his own opinions of the old Holmes. By the final scene Holmes has reformed and everyone lives happily ever after. Director Jeffery Brown, who also did the set design, captures the mood and feeling of A Christmas Carol with a twist of The Blue Carbuncle all tied into a nice bow. The scenes changes are done by flipping giant, drawn panels at the back of the stage to go from 221B Bakers Street to a London street scene to the interior of a hotel. It was all very effective and seamlessly done.

The play, written by Mark Shanahan, is fast becoming one of my favorite Yule-Tide plays and is taking its place of holiday must-sees along with A Christmas Story and Love Actually. We shall leave the discussion of whether Die Hard is actually a Christmas Movie to those more capable.

As a reminder, The Sherlockian Theatrical Society is a non-judgmental society. It is our belief that any play about Sherlock Holmes is worth attending. We love Sherlock Holmes and we love live theater, so nothing will deter us off of our chosen path.

Break a leg!!!

Flower Mound, TX
Dec. 7 2024